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1986 a devastating arson fire burned the downtown Los Angeles Central Library, destroying over 375,000 books and forcing its closure. This event was followed by a second fire that claimed more than 25,000 additional books. After seven years of reconstruction involving the dedicated efforts of thousands of individuals the greatly enhanced library will reopen on October 3, 1993.

Designed by New York architect Bertram Goodhue, the original building opened in 1926, and entered the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The renovation, designed by Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates, includes the addition of a dramatic east wing, doubling the library's size to 540,000 square feet, and the restoration of original murals and exotic architectural details. The tree-studded 1.5 acre gardens, named for Robert F. Maguire III, who was instrumental in the realization of the library project, create an urban oasis that includes five fountains. Site specific works of art were commissioned from 11 Los Angeles-based artists for both the gardens and the new and refurbished structures.

To celebrate this cultural event the Los Angeles County Museum of Art has designed a self-guided tour of artworks that incorporate the written word. By following the route suggested by this guide you will encounter objects from many artistic traditions, each combining text and imagery in a different way. For example, the Assyrian king who commissioned the massive stone *Panels from the Palace of Ashurnasirpal II*, engraved with cuneiform texts, sought to overwhelm his state guests with visual and written proclamations of his power. A delicate garment, *Kazode with Mandarin Orange Trees, Poem and Snow*, subtly bears, among its blossoms, poetry invoking the idealized longevity of the emperor. A seventeenth-century portrait of Saint Augustine by Philippe de Champaigne includes the glowing Latin inscription "VERITAS" ("truth") hovering over the Bible, a reference to the subject's spiritual role as defender of orthodox Christian faith. In contrast, contemporary artist Barbara Kruger mixes photography and bold advertising typography in her compelling work, *Untitled (You substantiate our horror)*.

This guide will help you locate these and other word-image objects in the museum's galleries. The extended wall labels near each item will provide additional information.

Begin WordWalk Here



A Ahmanson Building, Atrium Level

Gallery 306

XIANG SHENGMO

China, Ming Dynasty, Zhejiang province, 1597-1658

Calling for Redaction, 1626

Handscroll, ink on paper

First colophon: Twenty poems and inscription by

Xiang Shengmo, 1626

Second colophon: Comments by Dong Qichang,

1555-1636

Los Angeles County Fund

60.29.2



C Ahmanson Building, Plaza Level

Gallery 102

VESSEL WITH GLYPHIC TEXT

Guatemala Lowlands, Maya, about

400-550 A.D.

Ceramic with red, cream, and black slip

Purchased with funds provided by the

General Acquisition Fund

AC1992.129.1



D Ahmanson Building, Second Level

Gallery 202

PANELS FROM THE PALACE OF

ASHURNASIRPAL II

Mesopotamia, Nimrud, Palace of Ashurnasirpal II

(reigned 883-858 B.C.)

Alabaster

Purchased with funds provided by Anna Bing Arnold

66.4.1-5

E Ahmanson Building, Second Level

Gallery 220

PHILIPPE DE CHAMPAIGNE

France (born Flanders), 1602-74

Saint Augustine, about 1645-50

Oil on canvas

Gift of the Ahmanson Foundation

M.88.177



B Ahmanson Building, Plaza Level

Gallery 104

PAUL CADMUS

United States, born 1904

Coney Island, 1934

Oil on canvas

Gift of Peter Panakker

59.72



F Ahmanson Building, Third Level

Gallery 304

ARCHITECTURAL TILES WITH

ISLAMIC INVOCATIONS

Takistan, Sind, 15th-16th century

Ceramic tiles with blue and white glazes

Gift of Marilyn Walter Grounds

M.91.350.5a-c

G Ahmanson Building, Third Level

Gallery 303

TOMB COVER FRAGMENT

Turkey, 18th century

Silk, compound weave, satin ground,

weft-faced patterning

Edwin Binney, 3rd Turkish Collection

M.85.237.10



WordWalk Continues



H Hammer Building, Second Level

Gallery 212

OSKAR KOKOSCHKA

Austria, 1886-1980

Die Schlafenden (The sleeping ones), 1906-8

From the book *Die träumenden Knaben*

(*The dreaming boys*), 1917

Color lithograph, mechanically transferred to stone

The Robert Gloe Rifkind Center for German Expressionist

Studies, purchased with funds provided by Anna Bing

Arnold, Museum Acquisition Fund and deaccession funds

83.1.125f

You substantiate our



Anderson Building, Second Level
Gallery 202

BARBARA KRUGER
United States, born 1945
Unfaded (You substantiate our horror), 1985
Gelatin silver prints
M.87.132.a-c
Ralph M. Parsons Fund



Anderson Building, Second Level
Gallery 205

ANSELM KIEFER
German, born 1945
Das Buch (The Book), 1985
Lead, steel and tin
Purchased with funds provided by the Modern and Contemporary Art
Council and Louise and Harold Held
M.85.376

Pavilion for Japanese Art
West Wing, Second Level, Gallery 201

KOSODE WITH MANDARIN
ORANGE TREES, POEM AND SNOW
Japan, late 18th century
Pâte-resist dyeing (yuzen), stenciled
imitation tie-dyeing (kata kanoko),
and silk and metallic thread embroidery
on light blue silk crepe (chirimen)
Gift of Miss Bella Mabury
M.39.2.8



Pavilion for Japanese Art
East Wing, Second Level, Gallery 203

KANŌ MASUNOBU (TOUN)
Japan, 1625-94
Sailboat and Mountain
17th century
Hanging scroll, ink on paper
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Promised gift of Margo and Hans Ries
L.93.27



Ahmanson Building, Atrium Level

Ahmanson Building, Plaza Level

Ahmanson Building, Second Level



Ahmanson Building, Third Level

Hammer Building, Second Level



Anderson Building, Second Level

Pavilion for Japanese Art

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